

THE JACOBS REPORT

GILDA Z. JACOBS
MICHIGAN SENATE
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FOURTEENTH DISTRICT

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LABOR DAY START BOOSTS TOURISM

Industry, State Benefit

Two extra, legislatively mandated weeks of summer gave the tourism industry the boost it was looking for this year.

The Michigan Hotel, Motel and Resort Association and Travel Michigan, which oversees the state's tourism promotion, testified before the Senate Agriculture, Forestry and Tourism Committee that the late start date generated more state tourism and sales tax dollars.

In a recent Hotel Association survey, 53 percent of members said they had a higher or much-higher level of occupancy in the last two weeks of August. Twenty-nine percent said their occupancy levels remained the same.

“Apparently, increased availability of family vacation time leading up to the holiday prompted more people to extend their stay on into Labor Day weekend,” said Steve Yencich of the Hotel Association. “Michigan's post-Labor Day school law was a real boost for families, tourism and our state's economy.”

Northern resorts saw a big increase in tourists and—surprisingly—the Henry Ford Museum in Detroit saw a 26,000-person attendance increase from the same period of time last year.

“The portion of people who took vacations out of state in June now found the wherewithal to take a vacation in state,” Yencich said.

Yencich also pointed to Michigan's \$15 million tourism campaign. The state was given \$15 million for advertising, with \$7.5 million designated for this year and \$7.5 million earmarked for next year.

Eighty percent of this money is spent on regional, out-of-state advertising, while roughly twenty percent is spent in-state.

For each \$1 the state spent on tourism dollars, the state received an estimated \$3.43 in tax revenue.

JACOBS SUPPORTS CERVICAL CANCER VACCINATIONS

Bipartisan Package Targets Sixth Grade Girls

Senator Gilda Z. Jacobs (D-Huntington Woods) praised this week's introduction of bipartisan legislation that will require all girls entering sixth grade to receive vaccinations which will protect against the cervical cancer virus. Senate Bills 1416 and 1417, which were co-sponsored

by Jacobs, will require that a vaccine for the human papillomavirus (HPV) be added to Michigan public schools and academies' required immunization schedules for next year. The vaccine has proven 100 percent effective at preventing disease from the two HPV types responsible for 70 percent of all cervical cancers.

"This is public health policy that promises to have a major impact on girls and women for generations," Sen. Jacobs said. "To participate in an initiative that can actually prevent cancer is extremely rewarding."

While the legislation follows recent FDA approval of the vaccine for girls and women between nine and 26, the Senate bills will include immunizations for girls aged 11 and 12. As with similar school-required vaccines, parents/guardians can exempt children from required vaccines for medical, religious, or philosophical reasons.

The legislation has received unanimous support of all women serving in the Michigan State Senate. It is expected to come before the Senate for a vote before the end of September.

While some 45 states have introduced similar legislation to address this issue, Michigan is the first state to require the vaccine for school entry.

JACOBS & CONDINO INTRUDUCE BUS SAFETY PACKAGE

Bills Offered in Response to Southfield Tragedy

State Senator Gilda Jacobs (D – Huntington Woods) and State Representative Paul Condino (D – Southfield) have announced legislation aimed at improving safety of students boarding and leaving school busses.

"With school back in session, we must take every precaution to assure that students are transported safely to and from school," Sen. Jacobs said. "This legislation will help assure that safe transport."

The legislation would extend the distance for displaying alternately flashing lights from 200 to 400 feet when students are required to cross the street in order to reach the bus stop. A second bill would require the driver of a vehicle overtaking or meeting a school bus which is displaying alternately flashing lights to be responsible for bringing their vehicle to a full stop not less than 20 feet from the school bus.

The legislation comes in response to an incident in December, 2005, when a Southfield high-school student was tragically killed crossing the street to reach her bus stop. Although the bus had already activated its warning lights, the driver of a pickup truck sped up and attempted to pass the bus in the left turn lane and the pickup truck struck and killed the 15-year-old girl.

"This tragedy could have possibly been averted had this legislation been in effect," Rep. Condino said. "With its passage, let us assure that this is the last such tragedy."

Rep. Condino's bills are: HB 66450 and HB 6451. Sen. Jacob's legislation will be introduced next week.

SOUTHERN OAKLAND COUNTY NAACP SEMINAR

“Healthy Pregnancy: Healthy Babies”

The goal of this seminar is to educate and increase parent and caregiver awareness of community resources available to support the development of healthy babies. Health experts will address prenatal care, post natal care, nutrition and safe sleep.

**Saturday, October 7
9:00 a.m – 11:30 a.m.
Registration & Breakfast begins at 8:30 a.m**

**Millennium Centre
15600 J.L. Hudson Drive
(across from Northland Mall)
Southfield, MI 48075**

Space is limited; please RSVP by October 2.
Danelle Watts or Anne Rosenthal (248) 681-9192
dwatts@oaklandchildcare.org
arosenthal@oaklandchildcare.org

WIT, WISDOM, ETC . . .

Quotables

“The nice part about being a pessimist is that you are constantly being either proven right or pleasantly surprised.”
-George Will

“When you don’t know where you are going, any road may take you there.”
-Lewis Carroll

Quote of the Week: Ann Richards

“I’ve always said that in politics, your enemies can’t hurt you, but your friends will kill you.”

All Michigan legislation can be tracked at <http://www.legislature.michigan.gov/>.

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State Senator Gilda Jacobs represents the 14th Senate District, which includes Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Ferndale, Franklin, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Lathrup Village, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak Township, Southfield, and Southfield Township. She is the Minority Vice Chair of the Families & Human Services Committee and the Economic Development, Small Business & Regulatory Reform Committee. She also serves on the Government Operations and Health Policy Committees.

Constituents of the 14th District may contact Senator Jacobs at sengjacobs@senate.michigan.gov or toll-free at 1-888-937-4453.

This newsletter is produced in single-space form in order to save paper and transmission costs.

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